8BIT

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALL 8-BIT COMPUTER USERS

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EDITOR'S COLUMN - ISSUE 10

Ten issues up and a new year. In fact, 8BIT started with a September 1994 coverdate so its first anniversary is already behind us.

As a contrast to the PCW16 special last time, this issue carries two large articles on the alternative operating systems for Commodore C64s and C128s. The first piece covers the range of systems, while the second concentrates on the revolutionary GEOS, the WIMP system which is far from wimpish.

The Commodores are rightly famous for their graphic capabilities and GEOS pushes them far beyond what might be expected to be an 8-bit computer's limits.

C64s have an idiosyncratic set of conventions in its main processor and standard 5*" drive size but they get the job done well and as a stand-alone graphics machine who could ask for more?

* * * *

What with the IEBA's activities and now the arrival of the 8 Bit Alliance, it really puts the lie to the suggestion that there is now a shortage of support available for 8-bit computer users.

Initially, the expertise offered by the Alliance seems to be mainly for CPC, Spectrum and SAM users and there does not appear to be much offered for PCW or C64 users yet, but they are inviting help from others so you could contact them with that or to obtain further information.

Brian Watson

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ALTERNATIVE COMMODORE 64/128 OPERATING SYSTEMS by LEON BEBBINGTON

Editor's Preliminary note: DOS stands for Disk(c) Operating System. In practice, any modern operating system (OS) now recognises disk drives but the convention of including the D in the abbreviation persists.

So the AMSTRAD CPCs and PCWs, and some Spectrums, have CP/M as an alternative DOS, but what does the C64 have? Well, there are several alternative operating systems to choose from.

1) **COMMODORE/Vic DOS**: This DOS was originally designed for the Vic 20 computers, which is why all the older Commodore serial devices are backwards-compatible with the Vic 20. It is run via BASIC, and is both long-winded and slow. I suppose 13 years ago when it was created this wasn't that important as not many people had disk drives. It was only really only of use by programmers. Commodore DOS is very outdated now but until you start upgrading your system it's something you have to live with. However, the DOS *is* built into your C64 and disk drive and comes with whatever C64-compatible drive you decide to buy.

2) **FASTLOAD v6.0 (ACTION REPLAY MK VI)**: This is a little better; a fast loading, easy to use, DOS with function key commands and a machine code monitor. Under Fastload (and JiffyDOS) you would type something like

```
@I <RETURN>
```

whereas to do this under Commodore DOS, you would have to type

```
open 15,8,15 <RETURN>
print#15,"I" <RETURN>
close 15 <RETURN>
```

Immediately you can see one difference is speed. The main advantages are:

It allows fast loading on the first file
It does not wipe out your basic programs when listing a directory
Scratching files and validating disks is done a lot easier
It allows you to 'old' basic programs which have been 'newed'
File and disk copying is far faster and
Disk handling and Commodore DOS is a lot easier to understand

and the disadvantages are:

It occupies the expansion port
Fastload isn't 100% compatible and
Plugging and unplugging is a pain when something *is* incompatible

The advantages far outweigh the disadvantages, and this is still a recommended purchase to any user. Generally, I only use Fastload when I want to do some machine code programming or disk copying, but everybody will find a use for this. Please note I haven't mentioned any other features of the Action Replay cartridge as I am covering operating systems here and not hardware.

3) **JIFFYDOS**: This isn't something you plug into the back of your C64. It's a set of chips which replace the Commodore DOS rom chips in your computer and disk drive, so becoming an integral part of your system. Most importantly, it is guaranteed 100% compatible with all software and hardware. On installing the chips, you have a switch that you place on the left side of your computer which allows you to switch off JiffyDOS at any time, even while your computer is switched on.

JiffyDOS has merely one disadvantage; it does not allow you to use the tape port when it is switched on. This isn't really important as most disk users don't even look at their tape drive. However, some users use their tape port to provide power to their non-C64 printers. This problem is simply overcome by switching off JiffyDOS when printing, then switching it back on when finished. Good, eh?

JiffyDOS also adds wedge commands (? - BW) to your system and is backwards compatible with Commodore DOS, except 15 times faster when loading, saving, reading, writing and transferring data to your disk. It's permanent and supports all Commodore computers and most C64-compatible drives as well as PRG, REL, SEQ, and USR files which should please programmers no end. I couldn't imagine life without JiffyDOS. It adds real power to the C64 and is very versatile. Treat yourself and bring your C64 a little more up to date with JiffyDOS.

If you don't feel confident enough to install JiffyDOS yourself, EBES (Electric Boys Entertainment Software) at 2A, Woolaston Road, Harringay, London, N4 1SE (phone or fax: 0181 348 4916) will install it for you. I don't *think* there is an installation charge, but please check with them before sending off your keyboard. If you don't want to send off your C64 to EBES because of the postage costs, then High Street Micros, 18, High Street, CREWE, Cheshire (01270 580964) will install JiffyDOS for a price and may be near enough for you to deliver your machine to them. I suggest checking both to see which will be cheaper for you.

4) **GEOS:** Now we're on to the most recent 'buzz word' on the Commodore scene - GEOS. This stands for Graphical Environment Operating System and runs in a similar way to WINDOWS or WORKBENCH, so pointing and clicking is pretty much a way of life for GEOS users. The creators of GEOS led the computing world into a a new era. Indeed the ideas and ideals of GEOS are still very much alive today, except GEOS on the C64 is now WINDOWS on the PC (Big NB to Bill Gates & Co: all ensuing litigation should be directed to Mr L Bebbington... BW). The PC community are pointing and clicking and are amazed at how much easier it makes computing for them.

How GEOS works is what sets it apart from any other C64 operating system. It's software based, and treats your disk drive as a hard drive. GEOS has its own fast loader and calls different parts of the program from your disk as required. This is very similar to how computers with hard drives use them; they load different parts of the program into memory as and when required. This allows any GEOS utility to be bigger than the computer memory available - which is a good way of getting around the restrictions of the C64 and is also another good reason why having a disk drive is better than relying on tape. It does mean you will need some programs on all your GEOS disks (eg Desk Top, your selected Printer and Input drivers) but this isn't too limiting.

Some have commented that GEOS is a little on the slow side, but I find that it is fun to use, and the job it does is far more important than how fast it runs. It isn't ideal for everything, but there is something for everyone (as long as you are a disk user.) This is a recommended add-on to any serious C64 user's collection.

Please note when buying GEOS: EBES are the only company in the UK that can offer up-to-date versions of GEOS, full support for users and up-to-date programs for it. Whereas some other companies (mentioning no names) will offer the Systems disk at a cheaper price, no one else can offer full support and a guarantee that GEOS will be fully working on arrival (NB: this is the writer's opinion and not necessarily a statement of fact-BW. Phew!). GEOS is also available for the C128, which means 80 columns and faster screen updates, so if you have a C128 it is recommended that you buy the 128 version.

I will be doing follow-up articles helping you to get the most of the operating systems mentioned in these pages in future issues of 8BIT, So, until next time...

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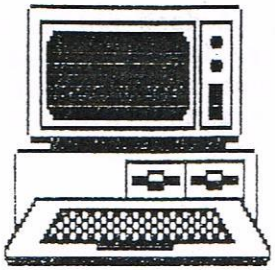

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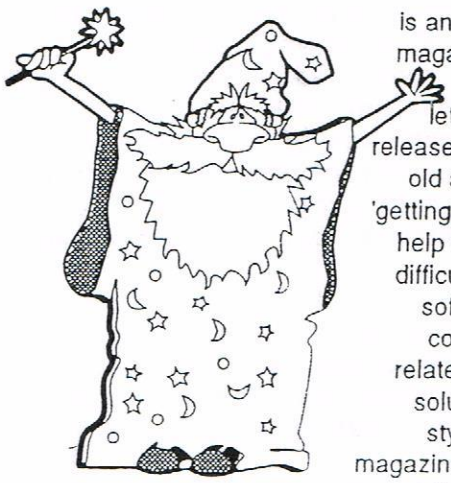

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THE SPECWORD WORD PROCESSOR

Before we go on, it should be noted that SPECWORD is most certainly not designed to rival or better commercial word processors like WORDMASTER or TASWORD, but new users can find it difficult to purchase these programs new for a cheap price without resorting to piracy.

SPECWORD : PROGRAM LINE 9800
SPECCODE : CODE 32768, 10000

SPECWORD is primarily designed for a standard 128k Spectrum with a +D connected - but don't let that put anyone off. This is only because it is set up to load and save to +D disk and has a feature to file to the ramdisc (drive !).

When loaded, you are greeted with the usual 128k style menus. All options are driven using this system, and selected with the cursors and ENTER. The first menu is the DOCUMENT menu where you can load, save, print, edit, backup or alter the program. When starting afresh, you must select CREATE and give your document a working title.

EDITING

You are then moved swiftly onto the editing screen itself. This is set up as a blue screen with white ink, but can easily be altered. At the top of the screen you are given a bar of information, presented in 64 column ode. This features your current line, column and gives the status of caps lock, word wrap, margin starts and lengths and states of various modes (insert / overwrite etc.)

CONTROLS

There are a great many keys which allow you to manipulate your text. These are thankfully listed in the HELP section. The main control keys are:

EDIT : Return to main menu
INV VID : HELP PAGE
ARROWS : Move cursor
DELETE : Delete character
TRU VID : TAB
GRAPH : Printer Control
EXTEND : Extra commands

Pressing INV VIDEO gives an on-screen help page of the general commands. To get help on the printer commands, press GRAPH then INV VIDEO. For the other extra commands, press EXTEND MODE then INV VIDEO. Some commands worth mentioning are Set and reset margins, move to start / end of text, Select Insert / Overwrite mode, wordwrap on / off, word count and word find, and setting and resetting of tabs and blocks.

FILES

There is a file accompanied with the program:

ptrcodes : CODE 49152, 1166

This loads into the word processor and gives details of how to turn on and off advanced printer controls like NLQ, Superscript, Italics etc.

The loading command can be found at line 2290 should you wish to change it to tape or your preferred disk type. The ramdisk loading command can be found at line 2220 which can also be easily adapted.

The save command can be found at line 3420 and it's ramdisk equivalent at line 3630. The save option also cunningly hides the option to re-title your document.

The PRINT option from the main menu is very comprehensive and allows you to print individual blocks or the entire document. You can also alter the amount of lines to be printed per page, spacing, margin setting, start line, page numbering, page waiting and line feeds.

CUSTOMISING FOR YOUR PRINTER

The option to enter your own control codes is very simple. You are presented with a menu of letters which you can define your code. We'll select "B" for our example. Move the option bar to "B // b" and press ENTER. You are then asked to choose upper or lower case. I tend to use upper case to turn the printer control ON and lower case to turn it OFF. So, select which you prefer and you are then presented with another

window of codes. Move the bar to the code you wish to enter and type the new number. Press ENTER if satisfied or DELETE to start again. When entered, move down to the next code until finished.

FINISHING TOUCHES

As I mentioned earlier, the colours of the screen can be easily altered to suit. Choose the CUSTOMISE option in the main menu where you will be presented by a smaller menu of current values. TEXT is your current screen colour (alternative colours to try are 7 and 32), WINDOW is the colour of the current edit line (the line you are on when typing text) should you wish it to be in a different colour. BORDER is your border colour and "£" refers to the code you usually type to print up a pound sign. This is found in BASIC by LPRINT CHR$ x where x is the value which prints the pound sign. Although usually the default value, some printers may be configured differently.

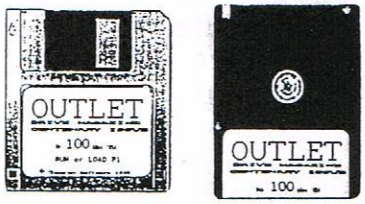
So, SPECWORD is a very comprehensive word processor. Although it may be considered very basic compared to TASWORD 128 or equivalent, it gives non - word processor owners the chance to get writing for only 20p!

* * * *

The January mail brought 8BIT two enclosures from Correspondents giving information on a new organisation aiming to benefit 8-bit computer users. To be called the **8 Bit Alliance User Group**, it is offering utilities, games, music and graphic demos, hardware advice, free monthly mags and help to members.

It is fronted by Leon Brown, whose address is 43, Gwydir Street, Toxteth, LIVERPOOL L8 3TJ. His phone number is 01517 289084. Best Wishes, chaps!

OUTLET
The Disk Magazine!



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So we now have Windows 95, with loads of publicity and hype. No doubt, some of you like me, had people who knew of your interset in computers asking if you've bought it yet. No doubt you replied in the negative, pointing out that it doesn't work on your computer.

Never before has so much fuss been made about an operating system. Bill Gates has to be complimented on making a computer programme so sexy. How many people though will be disappointed when they find that their word processor or spreadsheet runs in exactly the same way as before. The new operating system changes the way that programmes are filed and used,but the programmes stay exactly the same. How many people will have to buy more memory because of the demands of the software? How many people will buy upgrades to a system that already works perfectly well? How many people will fall for the same thing when Windows 97 is released? How many computers that work for Windows 95 will be junked for Windows 97? The biggest question of all though, is what number of people who buy the new software continue to do things that could be done on a much simpler computer? Many computers are used for simple word processing, speadsheet calculations and database management. There are places where memory and processing speed are important. Recent visits to hospitals and a couple of analytical chemistry labs show places where powerful computers pay their way. Some of my students though have wonderful computers, turn their noses up at my PCW, but games excepted, don't do anything on their computers that I can't do on mine, and in fact do less on their computers than I do on mine.

For those of us who use 8 bit computers, life remains pretty much the same. I suspect that there are plenty of of us who wouldn't mind a pentium, or a CD ROM or multimedia, but don't value that more than the thousand or so pounds that it takes to set one up. When the premium bond, the eight score draws or the pools come up the story might change. Meanwhile, we know and appreciate the power of lesser computers. To use an analogy, we don't buy a thirty eight tonne articulated lorry to take the kids to school and to do the Sainsbury's run. Eight bit computers still do all the things that they could do when eight bits was all you got. In fact they can often do a lot more. Programmes like Locoscript 3 or Microdesign produce output unthinkable back in the mid-eighties.

The problems for us are going to be continuing availability of software, publications and add ons. Several magazines have vanished. The resurrection of the C64 apart, the computer makers aren't making any more of our computers and few people will devote R&D capacity to a shrinking market. Those of us who are left need to join together, to encourage those who do support our mqchines, to provide mutual encouragement and a network of support for each others problems. The PC dominates the computer world and the bit of the computer press that is sold through my local newsagents but it is not the only player in the game.

Our computers don't run Windows 95, but they still work. The amount of software for them is increasing (even if it's harder to find), the amount of expertise about them is growing. Computer loyalty is still worthwhile.

ADAM SOUTHWELL

Amstrad User

If, like us, you are disappointed that **Amstrad Action** has closed down then you will be looking for another CPC read to fill the gap. You will be looking for an "an extremely good value disczine"

You will be looking for Amstrad User.

Packed with "a huge amount of really good material", Brian Watson declared in 8 Bit #6, p9, that Amstrad User "is a Real Good 'Un"!

All quotes from 8Bit.

For your copy send a 3" disc + £1 to: Brian Leahy, St.Mary's Road, Kingscourt, Co. Cavan, IRELAND.

RECENT READING RECEIVED:

From this issue, **8BIT** will not be covering disc/k magazines in depth. As part of its philosophy is to encourage interest in other computers as well as the reader's own and **8BIT**'s space is limited I must establish priorities. Unless one has access to the computer for which disczines are designed they are inaccessible to potential new 'readers.' However, *all* 8-bit publications need all the support they can get, so if publishers or editors of disc/k magazines would like to send me a printed summary of their contents (rather than the disc/k), I will cover that as space allows.

After Dark & Night Life CPC tape/3"disc/3.5" disc only: Apparently now only on disc so falls foul of the new rules. A pity as Jonty Jones, the editor, is a tireless grafter on behalf of the CPC and always has some new service on the go. Send him 2 discs and £1 for information sheets and his latest offerings. 41, Westmoreland Ave, Newbiggin by the Sea, Northumberland NE64 6RN.

AlchNews: No: 18 Spectrum tape and disc (but not 3") incl for PC use with an Speccy emulator. Each has the equivalent of 384 A4 pages incl details of other services. Just £1 from Alchemist Research, 62, Tithe Barn Lane, Woodhouse, SHEFFIELD, S13 7LN.

Baud: Newsletter of the Berkshire Amstrad PCW Club No 7. Passionate and opinionated about his computing, Ed Harris produces a good read for PCW users, with columns of tips, adverts (including repairers), and a crossword. 01344 428938 for prices.

Bonzo Newsletter: No 14 CPC. Specialising in backing up software, the newsletter also carries other features, including CPC 'net sites, a WACCI conference (of CPC users) report, and adverts. Send an A4 SAE + extra 25p stamp to: Dave Caleno, 29, Chapter Road, Strood, ROCHESTER, Kent ME2 3PX. STOP PRESS: Dave has just taken over many Goldmark products and Bonzo etc are now PD; further details from Dave.

Capital Computer Club's Newsletter: PCW, Come on, don't be insular! Drop them a line to find out what it's like to live without much dealer support. What do you mean, you already know?! Send a couple of IRCs to Hon Sec: Raymond Peterson, 21, Mapplebeck Street, Titahi Bay, Porirua, New Zealand. He'd like to hear from you.

Chic Newsletter: No 35 - All formats. Now heavily into comms and with its own BBS, this is a good general interest club. See adverts elsewhere for contact details.

Commodore Action No 2 C64. The latest venture by PC Software, this is comb-bound, very professionally produced and probably the best UK-produced Commodore paper mag. (with tape or disk). In the news pages, they announce they have just taken over Commodore Magic. See adverts elsewhere for contact details.

Contact 64: No 2 C64 disk. Christmas special + all the usual good fanzine stuff. Send 5.25 disk to Stephen Morgans, 91, High Street, Colliers Wood, LONDON, SW19 2JF

CPC User: No 54 Mostly CPC. 34 pages of good CPC stuff, from beginners to quite advanced technical features, news, and part 5 of the Cicero 8-bit internet serial (well, *I* like it!). For some reason John (the editor) criticises my navigating ability. Why? I only took an hour and 60 miles to get 12 miles away. A very good read. Send £1.50 to UAUG, 19a, Obelisk Road, Woolston, SOUTHAMPTON, Hants SO19 9BL.

Cornwall PCW Club Newsletter: Nos 18 & 19 PCW. IEBA feature and GD-PD brochure. AGM notice and new constitution. Meetings announced for Feb 10th (Mini-Office), March 9th (Loco family). Contact Kate Hadley 01208 872720 for further details.

Crashed No 13 Spectrum/SAM mainly. Full-colour covers, news, reviews, interviews with famous people (that Brian Watson bloke is next). Indispensable for a Spec/SAM user if you're not dead between the ears. Send £1 now to recapture that spirit of youth etc etc to Allan 'Gerremof' Clarkson, 16, The Avenue, Manston, LEEDS LS15 8JN.

The Disc Drive: No 8 PCW: With tips, news, and features, it has the right balance to appeal to all PCW users, and a nice, 'club' atmosphere. Meetings announced for 7th March on LocoScript 2 and 4th April on LocoFile and L/Mail. Send £1 to David Lalieu at 10, Sheridan Avenue, Benfleet, Essex SS7 1RD for a sample copy (£8 per annum).

Format: Jan '96 SAM/Spectrum mostly. Well worth a look by other Z80 computer's users. New SAM Coupes - £145, secondhand - *£80*, fitting new SAM Drives, debugging, and news of **Format PC**; launched to cover the early Amstrad PCs - about time somebody did. Well done, Bob. Send £1.50 to Format, 34, Bourton Road, GLOUCESTER GL4 0LE.

Intl ZX81 Magazine No 1. New magazine from Martin van der Zwan, Moerweg 508, 2531 BL Den Haag, Netherlands. ZX clones, memory expansion project and ZX81 vs 486AT 'head to head' - the funniest benchtest I've ever read! Send 1 IRC for a sample issue.

Mumpitz: Nos 17, 18, 19. All formats. The German equivalent of **8BIT** (only better). Excellent editorial. It takes me *ages* to translate but if you are reasonably proficient, you would find it very worthwhile. Hans-Christof has kindly sent a summary in English for the most recent two issues, as well as a 3" disc with his program for converting C64 Koala pics to CPC format (also see article elsewhere) and a GEOS demo for CPC users - wow! Send whatever you can afford (it's worth *at least* £2) to Hans-Christof Tuchen, Lotzstrasse 10, D-12205 BERLIN for a sample copy.

My Lord: Christian Pen Friend magazine No 1. Not computer-related really, but an excellent example of how to produce a specific-interest magazine with 8-bit kit. Brian Gildea, the editor, has a prodigious library of PCW clip art which he can supply or he will scan images to order for you. Phone him on 01329 310573.

Otto. No 1 CPC 3" disc. A new disc magazine; it's a very good first issue. Send a disc and SAE to Nicholas Campbell, 24, Ballyminstragh Road, Killinchy, Newtownards, Co Down, N Ireland, BT23 6RE or phone him on 01238 541716; he likes a chat.

PC Mart: Fortnightly. As well as hundreds of adverts relevant to 8-bit users, this magazine carries a very informative regular Classic Computers feature and will shortly begin a C64 section *as well*. Well done and thank you Paul Rigby and Steve Denson for getting steam-driven things back into the newsagents!

PCW Plus: Although its a little anorexic due to a lack of advertisers with money, if word processing is a significant part of your computer use, whatever computer you've got, I recommend it. As a national PCW forum it is unrivalled and with the new machine coming out it should attract a new helping of readers; use it or lose it.

Public Library Software Quarterly Newspaper: No 2. My local librarian brought this to my attention. It's free and covers things of interest to computer owning library users! See if your local library carries it or can get it for you.

The Scotwest PCW Club Newsletter: No 048. I really look forward to this; it's only a folded A4 sheet it carries Track (an advertising feature of stuff under £50) and concise news and articles of interest primarily to PCW users. For further details write to David Williams, 32/34, Carfin Street, New Stevenston, MOTHERWELL ML1 4JL.

Softsell Newsletter Dec '95. An incidental, but very enjoyable, side benefit of the Softsell Spectrum hire service. This issue comes decked with holly, of course! See advert elsewhere for details of how to join the Softsell club.

WACCI: CPC No 96. A magazine, a club, and claims to be for the serious user (not games). As issue 100 approaches, it is still a mine of useful CPC information, including techy stuff, and much is raised and resolved via the letters column. They also seem to have an inexhaustible stash of PD and 3" discs at very sensible prices. Send £1 to Paul Dwerryhouse, **WACCI**, 7, Brunswood Green, Hawarden, Deeside, CLWYD CH5 3JA.

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This is the new address of Radical, from which we keep supporting the CPC. We now have a growing catalogue of exclusive games, and there are more on the way, such as the eagerly awaited Lethal Moves, and the improved Black Jack and Cribbage.

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* Plus computers only.

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		£
	TOTAL	£

Brympton Cottage, Brunswick Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 3NQ.
Phone/Fax : 01903 206739

Bonzo's Scrapyard

The occasional newsletter for Amstrad CPC tape to disc transfers

29 Chapter Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent, ME2 3PX

Bonzo's Scrapyard, the tape to disc transfer information newsletter, using the Bonzo suite of programs, published quarterly, is available now from the above address. To receive a copy, send an A5 or A4 sized SSAE, plus an additional first class stamp.

The Bonzo programs are now on sale again

The following Bonzo related programs, which between them transfer over 1400 programs from tape to disc, are available exclusively from Bonzo's Scrapyard:

1 Bonzo Super Meddler and Hackpack

2 Bonzo Blitz (for Speedlock programs) and 4 adventure games written by Colin Harris

3 Bonzo's Flashpack (Flash Basic Utilities and Demos)

4 Bonzo's Big Batch (Database, Pools Predictor, Sprite/Screen Designer

5 Maxidos and CPC Procopy

All the above are on 3 inch disc and cost £8.50 per disc, including P&P.

Also available is the MS800 big format program, this is supplied on 3.5 inch disc and costs £6.50, including P&P.

All the above programs available from the end of September 1995, please make cheques etc. payable to Mr D. A. Caleno.

U.A.U.G.

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For an application form and further info contact...
Gordon Woolliscroft, 2 Wrenbeck Drive, Otley, West Yorkshire, LS21 2BR. Telephone 01943 463718.

Join Now!!

COMMODORE - FOR SALE

An extensive range of C64 hardware and software packages available, including word processor packages and modems. For a full list of items, please send an SAE to: CA Walford, 11, Palmerston Road, Wood Green, London N22 4QH or Tel: 0181 889 4878 afternoons or evenings. REF:J

C64 bargain bin! Send me £1 and I'll send you a game. Games include Codemasters and others. Interested? Write to Denise, 48, Eastern Avenue, CHIPPENHAM, Wilts SN15 3LW REF:K

Ludicrous amount of C64 games titles for sale, all in original boxes and most with instructions. Both disks and tapes. £5 per disk and £3 per tape; offers considered. For a list, send an A5 SAE to Commodore Magic, 5, Crane Avenue, Yaxley, PETERBOROUGH, Cambs PE7 3JH. REF:J

C64, Vic 20 Quick Data drive new, boxed with blank microwafer and OS microwafer. Ceap, offers? Blank microwafers also available. Contact: Duncan Tizzard, *Folly Farm* Cold Ashton CHIPPENHAM Wilts SN14 8JR. Tel: 01225 (BATH) 891014 between 7pm and 9pm REF:Q

RETROS is a brand new company producing software for the C64. For a copy of our first compilation, The Magnificent Six, send a cheque or PO for £1.99 made payable to Matthew Withers to: Matthew Withers, Retros, 209, Ruskin Road, CREWE, Cheshire CW2 7JY REF:J

"FONTS FOR GEOS/1" - 21 original fonts for use with Geos. Most have multiple point sizes with pound (£) signs. Includes a graphic font to help design special dividers in your documents. 1541 disk. £3.99 including p & p in UK. Michael D Pearson, 31, Saxon Close, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire CV37 7DX REF:P

C64 games for sale from £1 including Codemasters titles and many more. Interested? Contact Denise, 48, Eastern Avenue, CHIPPENHAM, Wilts. SN15 3LW. Send SSAE for lists REF:K

* * * *

COMMODORE - WANTED

Wanted: the emulator which enables a C64 to run commercial Spectrum games, or any further information on it. Write to AG McLennan, 75, Downs Road, FOLKESTON, Kent CT19 5PS. My C64 has a 1541 disk drive and hard drive. REF:J

Wanted! Vic 20 Software/Hardware etc. Contact: Leon, 348, Station Road, Winsford Cheshire CW7 3DG. Tel: 01606 861647. REF:J

WANTED: Trojan light pen, disk, and tape software for the Commodore 64. Also many items for sale and technical help given for free - just send an SAE or an international reply coupon. Write to Andrew Fisher, 2, Elfleda Road, CAMBRIDGE CB5 8LZ or call 01223 561433 weekends only REF:M

WANTED: COMMODORE FORMAT 40 (Jan 1994) in mint condition with/without covertape. Also Wanted - C64 cassettes in mint condition of: Jet Set Willy 1, Dictator by Dk'Tronics, Graham Souness International Soccer and Multimixx 5. Good prices paid. S Ross, 3, Deanbank Street, DUNDEE DD2 2EA REF:L

Wanted Printshop 64, new or second hand - must be complete. Manual for MPS801 and help with Speedscript. Contact M Surridge, 99, Canterbury Road, COLCHESTER, Essex CO2 7RY. Tel: 01206 792155 REF:O

WANTED! Commodore Format issues 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 35, 37, 40, 41, and 47 - all in vgc with tapes please. Also wanted: any old Zzap 64s, Commodore Forces, Your Commodores, or Commodore Users. All vgc with tapes. Any reasonable offers considered. Call 01427 (Gainsborough) 610912. REF:O

Wanted: Commodore 64 contacts in Cheshire please. Tape or Disk. Leon 01606 861647. REF:J

COMMODORE - MISC

Fed up with expensive magazines that are all fancy headings and no information? Then try Commodore Mania, the 12 page bi-monthly magazine with packed covertape for just £1. Issue 3

COMMODORE - MISC - continued

out February. Write to: Commodore Mania, *Mill Cottage*, Burrelton, Blairgowrie, PH13 9PP. Please enclose an SAE when ordering. REF:J

Commodore 64 Technical advice offered:- If you have a C64/128 technical problem write to me, Andrew Fisher, former technical consultant to Commodore Force and Commodore Format, at 2, Elfleda Road, CAMBRIDGE CB5 8LZ England. Enclose an SSAE or an International Reply Coupon for a fast reply. REF:Z

SIXTY-FOUR! Is an exciting new fanzine dedicated to Commodore 64 computers. It contains all sorts of C64-related material and even comes with a cover disk from issue 3 containing exclusive demos of upcoming games. Write, enclosing £1 and an A5 SAE for a sample issue, to L Bebbington, 348, Station Road, WINSFORD, Cheshire CW7 3DG REF:Z

* * * *

AMSTRAD CPC - FOR SALE

Amstrad CPC Database Software "Mini-Office" on 3" disc complete with instructions. Plus Dr Logo & Help. CP/M Plus system utilities. SAE to Alan, 18, Walton Drive, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 4UZ REF:P

An unusual CPC464 (in Britain) with the Spanish keyboard layout £10. CTM644 colour monitor incl 5v supply which would suit any 464 or 6128 - ideal spare £30. Either/both + p&p or possible free delivery available. Phone Brian Watson 01353 (ELY, Cambs) 777006 REF:Z

Amstrad CPC464 games for sale. Send SAE for list to: 29, Curlew, Wilnecote, TAMWORTH, Staffs B77 5PL or phone 01827 260729 after 7pm REF:T

Amstrad Action issues 52-55, 57, 59-64, 67, 69-72, 74, 75, 77-79, 81, 82 (no covertapes). £10 the lot. Telephone: 0161 439 (Stockport) 7034 7-10pm REF:R

Amstrad Action covertapes 35-51 50p each + p&p. Phone Derek on 01745 (Denbigh, Clwyd) 730498. REF:N

CPC6128 keyboard (good working order) £30, green monitor £30, colour monitor £50, 464 (also 6128) sound synthesiser £30, Maplins 8-slot romboard + roms £30, external 3½" drive £30, 3" drive £10, AA mags and tapes for offers. Max, Mini-Office, Tasword, Golf, Chess, PD all on disks. Phone John: 01929 (WAREHAM, Dorset) 554109 REF:L

LOADS OF CPC ITEMS FOR SALE - Tapes, Discs, Magazines, Books. For list send a SSAE TO T.Davies, 8, Garden Suburbs, Trimsaran, Nr Kidwelly, Dyfed SA17 4AB REF:O

Amstrad Action covertapes 21-46 inclusive for offers. Amstrad CPC464 keyboard and CTM640 colour monitor for spares. Also massive collection of tape software to be included (for details send SAE) Only £50 the lot! Mr Peter Jones, *Greystones*, 27, Town Gate, Calverley, PUDSEY, West Yorkshire, LS28 5NW. Tel: 0113 (LEEDS) 2394011 REF:Q

Xenomorphs: new game by David Hall only £2. Also comes with previously unseen PD software. Send a 3" disc, SAE and cheque or postal order to:- David Hall, 280, Derbyshire Lane West, Stretford, MANCHESTER, M32 9LU. NEWS FLASH - mention **8BIT** and save £1 (half price) REF:Q

For Sale: **Amstrad Action** 16-23, 25, 28, 30, 35, 37-39, 43, 48, 50-59, 71, 89, 91-95, 98-100. **Amstrad Computer User** Sep 86-Jul 89, Sep 89-Jun 90, Aug 90, Mar 92. **Computing With The Amstrad** Jun 87-Oct 87 + April 88. **CPC Attack** Jun and Sep 92. **CPC Computing** Dec 88. Many with cassettes. £1.50 each inc p&p. Discount for 5+. JW Gamble, 31, Cornmills Road, Soham, Cambs CB7 5AT. Ref:M

CPC games for sale. Most on disc, few tapes. Also Supercalc2 (Soft 07028 disc). Send A4 SAE for details. Miss C Hurlock, 8c, Hamlet Court Rd, Westcliff on Sea, Essex SS0 7LX REF:P

Lemmings on disc for CPC. As new condition with manual. Offers around £5. A few other disc games available. Duncan

continued.....

AMSTRAD CPC - FOR SALE - continued

Tizzard, *Folly Farm*, Cold Ashton, CHIPPENHAM, Wilts SN14 8JR. 01225 (BATH) 891014 7pm-9pm REF:Q

CPC Plus/GX4000 games paddles, also suitable for CPC and others. Brand new £2, used £1.50. Burning Rubber cart new with manual £3.50. Non-working GX4000 unit almost new £5. Duncan Tizzard, *Folly Farm*, Cold Ashton, CHIPPENHAM, Wilts SN14 8JR. 01225 (BATH) 891014 7pm-9pm REF:Q

Brunword Elite Mk3 ROM module £60, 30 3" discs £15, replacement internal 3" drive £20. Tel: 01502 (Lowestoft) 518773 and ask for Jonathan. REF:L

Replacement disc drive belts for CPC and PCW 3" drives (also Spectrum?). Flat type belts with full but simple fitting instructions. £2.45 including postage and packing. Mr AJ Howard, 65, Altyre Way, BECKENHAM, Kent BR3 3ED REF:J

FOR SALE: a CPC6128 computer with colour monitor, extra external 3" drive, tape recorder, joystick, some games and some serious discs, Mini-Office 11. Offers. Tel: 01642 617656 REF:O

Large list of 2nd hand CPC tape and disc Software at sensible prices. All originals with instructions. Send 1st class stamp and return label for lists. BA Watson, c/o **8BIT** magazine. REF:T

LOADS OF CPC goodies: Tapes, Discs, Roms, Books, Magazines and Hardware. For list send A5 SSAE: *Brympton Cottage*, Brunswick Road, WORTHING, Sussex BN11 3NQ. REF:P

Amstrad Actions: 29-41 (Feb 88-Feb 89), 46 (Jul 89), also ACU for May 1990. £1 each incl p&p. BA Watson, c/o **8BIT** magazine. REF:T

KING ARTHUR'S DOMAIN is a disc PD Library for the CPC. We have games, utilities, music, clip art, a large selection of CP/M programs and lots more. For catalogue, send 3"/3½" disc + SSAE to: **KAD**, *Brympton Cottage*, Brunswick Road, WORTHING, Sussex BN11 3NQ. REF:Z

GD.PD: The ultimate in PD software at only 25p per disc side (copy charge) for your Amstrad CPC. For the GD.PD list send an SSAE to: Dave Stitson, 6, Connaught Avenue, Mutley, PLYMOUTH, Devon PL4 7BX REF:L

ARE YOU A FRUSTRATED AMSTRAD CPC USER seeking help and support? Then why not join the **United Amstrad User Group** for a bi-monthly magazine, PD material (small copy charge), concessions and support, all for £8 per annum. Send SSAE to Gordon Wooliscroft, 2, Wrenbeck Drive, Otley, West Yorkshire LS21 2BR for details. REF:L

AMSTRAD CPC - WANTED

Wanted AMX mouse for use with 6128. Reasonable amount paid. Telephone: 0161 439 (Stockport) 7034 7-10pm REF:R

Games wanted for CPC, tape or disk please. Send your price list to Martin Bela, 11, Colwell Drive, Brookside, Alvaston, Derby DE24 0UP REF:J

DESPERATELY WANTED; an internal 3" drive for my 6128+ (5v). Also Amtix issue 1. Angela in Worthing: 01903 206739 REF:Z

Protext on ROM, and any other Protext series programs on ROM. Will respond to reasonable offers. Also Vidi wanted. Tel: 01502 (Lowestoft) 518773 and ask for Jonathan. REF:L

WANTED: Complete circuit board for 464 (Mk2 condensed version; IO/joystick ports on left side). Independant power supply (5v+12v output), for 6128 used without Amstrad monitor. Megamaths on tape or disc. Vgc daisywheels for Dyneer DW16. Write: Mr N Davies, Flat 1, 39, Broad Street, Newtown, Powys SY16 2BQ REF:N

WANTED: **ACU** for Nov '84 to Feb '85, Jun '86 to Oct '86, Sep '87 to Dec '87, April '90, Sep '90. Also **Amstrad Action** 1 and 2 and **Amtix** 1, 3 to 5, and 10 - 14. Also Pre-40 issues of **WACCI**, **CPC User** 1, any issues of **CPC Power**, **CPC Now** from 4 onwards, **Rundschlag** 1-8. Peter

continued.....

AMSTRAD CPC - **WANTED** - continued

Curgenven, *The Hollyar*, Bay Road, Trevone Bay, Near Padstow, Cornwall PL28 8QZ. Tel: 01841 520875 REF:K

Wanted for the Amstrad CPC 6128: these adventures on disc - Hitch Hikers Guide to the Galaxy (Infocom), Ingrid's Back (Level 9), Also wanted, these games on disc - Meltdown (Alligator), Knight Games (English Software), **Amstrad Action** magazines issues 1-7 inclusive. The cover prices offered. Jo Wood, 38, Stonehill Drive, Rooley Moor, ROCHDALE, Lancs OL12 7JN. Telephone: 01706 861185 REF:P

WACCI 3-20, 22-31, 35 & 51, **ACU** Jan-Aug '86 or before, Jul-Dec '87, all '88, May, Oct, Nov '90, Jun '92 onward. Disc drive DD1 or FD1. Service manuals. Christine Raisin, tel: 0115 (NOTTINGHAM) 9765163. REF:N

'ROMBO ROMBOX' wanted for original Amstrad CPC 6128. State the price wanted. Apply: Mr RE Hobday, 43, Cody Road, Clapham, BEDFORD, Beds. MK41 6ED REF:P

'DISC BASE' + a manual for CPC. £6 (incl p&p.) RE Hobday, 43, Cody Road, Clapham, BEDFORD, Beds MK41 6ED REF:P

CPC - **MISCELLANEOUS**

Help needed to repair a Multiface 2 which becomes hot in use and ceases to function. Please contact Matthew on 01684 (Tewkesbury) 274993. Cost to be discussed REF:O

Free PD to all readers of **8BIT**. Adventures, Games, Demos, Slide Shows, for the Amstrad CPC. PD supplied on 3" and 3½" discs. Send SSAE for details and PD list to PD Fun *Folly Farm* Cold Ashton CHIPPENHAM Wilts SN14 8JR. REF:Q

WACCI. If you have a CPC then you need us. Send a 29p stamp to: **WACCI**, 7, Brunswood Green, Hawarden, Deeside, CLWYD CH5 3JA to see what you are missing! REF:T

KING ARTHUR'S DOMAIN is a disc PD Library for the CPC. We have games, utilities, music, clip art, a large selection of CP/M programs and lots more. For catalogue, send 3"/3½" disc + SSAE to: **KAD**, *Brympton Cottage*, Brunswick Road, WORTHING, Sussex BN11 3NQ. REF:Z

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Bonzo's Scrapyard number 12a now available. The newsletter for CPC tape to disc transfers via the **Bonzo** suite of programs. Price - a large SSAE plus an extra 1st class stamp. From: **Bonzo's Scrapyard**, 29, Chapter Road, Strood, ROCHESTER, Kent. ME2 3PX REF:T

GD.PD: The ultimate in PD software at only 25p per disc side (copy charge) for your Amstrad CPC. For the GD.PD list send an SSAE to: Dave Stitson, 6, Connaught Avenue, Mutley, PLYMOUTH, Devon PL4 7BX REF:L

AMSTRAD PCW - FOR SALE

Flipper 3 for Amstrad 8512 or expanded 8256 on 3" disc. Never been used. £15. Tel: 01776 (STRANRAER) 704363 REF: R

Quikmyth is an introduction to mythology. Buy this Locofile cross-referenced database and get Quikmyth 2 free. Quikmyth contains Greek myths. Your free upgrade will have Greek legends also. 3½" discs only. £7.50 includes p&p or send SAE for details. DJ Gaskin, 119, London Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4NP REF:Q

PCW Software and add-ons for sale: cut-price list sent free to any caller. 01704 (Burscough,ORMSKIRK) 895015. Owner is upgrading to PC. REF:J

12 brain-twisting games from SPARK Software for the PCW including Coconut Shy and Fishing. Send cheque for £5 to Mr C McKenzie, 20, Macclesfield Road, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 1NR. Specify 3" or 3½" disc Ref:P

AMSTRAD PCW - FOR SALE - continued

AMX Stop Press, Caxton Condor 1, Caxton Scratchpad+/Smartkey - £15 ea. Tas-Sign, Lord of the Rings game 1 - £10 ea, Synergy Sharemaster, MAP Initnon ledger sstem - £20 ea. SCA Pofessional + interface - £45. Cut cable 9pin female to 25pin female - free. AEG Olympia FCC 1D2 interface 36pin to 20pin ribbon - £30. JR Cross, *The Parciau*, Clyro, Hay-on-Wye, HEREFORD HR3 5SG REF:P

PCW DUPLICATE BRIDGE SCORING COMPENDIUM. A comprehensive range of easy to use programs for scoring most Mitchell and Howell movements. Full instructions can be displayed on screen or printed out. On 3" or 3½" disc. £25. FW Manders, 4, Carral Close, LINCOLN LN5 9BD Tel: 01522 721512 for details. REF:J

Masters with manuals: LS/LM temp disc £5, 3" Tweak £8, CP/M Superboss £5, Matrix Locofont £6, Flipper v3.10 £15. Peripherals: Canon BS10sx sheetfeeder (unused) £30. Hardware Wanted: memory card for NC100 notepad. Sybil Fox 67, Alder Lodge, Stevenage Road, LONDON SW6 6NR. 0171 381 1445. Ref:L

AMSTRAD PCW - WANTED

Creative Technology TRACKBALL key mouse wanted for Microdesign on PCW. Must be trackball version. Details price, to Mike Elliston, 96, Sparrows Herne, BASILDON, Essex SS16 5EX Ref:L

Issue Dec '94 and 100 of **PCW Plus**, also Dec '86 of **8000 Plus** to complete the South Essex PCW Clubs' reference library. Contact Mike Elliston on 01268 (Basildon) 522484 Ref:L

AZ-330 Olympus Super zoom camera with infra-red remote unit, filters, soft case. £175. Would consider part exchange for PCW hardware. Ted 01275 (Bristol) 340565 REF:O

Wanted: any help or information concerning PCW9256 - Programs, games, Locoscript 3, upgrade memory with chips, 3½" disks. Mr WA Warren, 25, Milton Avenue, ANDOVER, Hants SP10 3DP REF:P

WANTED FOR A PCW: 'Grammatik' or any other program that checks Grammar on a PCW. Contact Jim French on 01268 415255. 14, Wheatfield Way, BASILDON, Essex SS16 6SN REF:K

I would appreciate details of any items for sale or exchange related to PCW8512. Hardware, printers, software, peripherals, programs, discs, manuals, books, etc. Require especially any items related to Protext or Basic, and manuals for Microdesign, Masterfile 8000, Dbase II, Frank Bohan, 13, New Road, Elsenham, BISHOPS STORTFORD, Herts. CM22 6HA REF:O

WANTED: Rombo Vidi set-up for a PCW, complete with instructions. Must be working! Please send details of price etc to: Mike Elliston, 96, Sparrows Herne, BASILDON, Essex SS16 5EX REF: L

PCW - MISCELLANEOUS

Any PCW users want to start a club in South London? Premises and equipment are available. Contact Mrs Sybil Fox 67, Alder Lodge, Stevenage Road, LONDON SW6 6NR. 0171 381 1445. REF:Z

Berkshire Amstrad PCW Users Club offers you FREE telephone support, FREE magazine/book loan, FREE machine loan, FREE newsletter. FREE access to bulletin boards etc. FREE Special offers - eg 3" discs only £10 per 10. SAE for details to Ed Harris, 121, Bullbrook Drive, BRACKNELL, Berks RG12 2QR REF:P

Many thanks to AJS of Huntingdon for his assistance in auto-booting my Stop Press program. I also have a 3½" Mini-Office Professional program which cannot be modified using the method which worked for Stop Press. Any ideas how I can make this auto-boot on my PcW9256? I have 1.6M free in 'M'; all suggestions would be gratefully received. Keith J Bull, 60, Hildaville Drive, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex Tel: 01702 (Southend) 339894. REF:J

CAPITAL COMPUTER CLUB, Box 1100, Wellington, New Zealand. For your info old title since 1988 was 'Amswell' at same address. We now have members with Amstrads, Amigas, Macs, Sanyos and PCs with DOS and CP/M. We subscribe to **PCW Plus** so are well up to date. We welcome

continued.....

PCW - MISCELLANEOUS - continued

at: 1/109, Watt Street, Featherston, Wairarapa. NZ REF:K

The Cornwall PCW Club meets on the second Saturday of each month (July and August excepted) in St Austell. All those interested in PCWs are most welcome to join us. Details from John Walker on 01752 (Plymouth) 706266 REF:P

TRACK is the name of the very useful free advertising feature section of **SCOTWEST.pcw**, the magazine of the PCW Club of the same name. For more details contact David Williams, 32/34, Carfin Street, New Stevenston, MOTHERWELL ML1 4JL Scotland REF:Z

SINCLAIR SPECTRUM - FOR SALE

Loads of Spectrum/Sam stuff to sell. For lists apply to David Ledbury c/o **8BIT** enclosing an A4 envelope and 2 first class stamps. REF:Z

Spectrum +3 drive belts. £2.45 inc P&P from AJ Howard, 65, Altyre Way, BECKENHAM, Kent BR3 3ED REF:J

Your Spectrum 1-21 - £50; Your Sinclair 1-40 (not 35+38) - £60; Crash - 3,4, 6-56, 59, 60 63, 65, 67 - £85. All good condition incl supplements, posters, tapes etc. Prices incl p&p. Also 5 Comcon programmable joystick interfaces - £11 each incl p&p. Phone Terry 01489 (Southampton) 575319 REF:J

20 games inc Exolon, Predator, Rambo 3, **Jet Pac, Green Beret. From 75p. SAE to St John Swainson, 7, Upper Hill Rise, RICKMANSWORTH, Herts WD3 2UU** REF:L

Spectrum games for sale from 50p each. Send SAE for list to: Pauline Fuller, 4, *Whitehouse Cottages*, Sot's **Hole Bank, Holbeach St Matthews,** SPALDING, Lincs PE12 8EJ REF:P

Spectrum Software; tapes and discs, games and serious. SAE for massive list to Alan, 18, West Street, Geddington, Northants NN14 1BD REF:K

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SINCLAIR SPECTRUM - WANTED

Wanted for Spectrum Plus 3 - a word processor with print out facility with or without spell checker as well. Contact Geoff 0171 474 (E London) 2869. Leave information on answerphone with phone number or address REF:Q

Cassette lead for Spectrum +3 desperately wanted! Please write to: Nicholas Campbell, 24, Ballyminstragh Road, Killinchy, Newtownards, Co Down, N Ireland BT23 6RE REF:J

Wanted for Spectrum +3 Multiface3. Willing to pay a good price. Also a copy of Zulu Wars on tape or disc. Willing to buy or swap for any games I may have of interest. Please contact Peter Stevens, 41, Nelson Street, Rosyth, FIFE KY11 2JU. Phone: 01383 419075 REF:P

Wanted: Any back issues and/or the covertapes of **Sinclair User and** Your **Sinclair**. Write with prices required to Nicholas Campbell 24 Ballyminstragh Road, Killinchy, Newtownards, Co Down, N Ireland, BT23 6RE REF: J

Does anyone have a +D or Disciple interface for sale? Oh, and I'd still like a Sinclair flat screen TV. Phone Eifion 01745 (Abergele) 332122 after 6pm. REF:L

WANTED FOR MY SPECTRUM. Old platform and ladder games. Also any second-hand SAM software. Write to: John Turner, 58, Burnside, PARBOLD, Lancs WN8 7PE REF:S

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MISCELLANEOUS SMALL ADVERTS

The IEBA (Iindependent Eight Bit Association) is a group active in promoting the use of 8-bit computers. The first edition of their **Directory of 8-bit Services** is due out in December. Membership is £5 for life. For further details send 2 first class stamps to Brian Watson c/o **8BIT** magazine. REF:Z

MANUALS WANTED for Dragon 64, Texas TI99/4a, Toshiba H-10, Atari STFM. GAMES WANTED for TI99/4a, Toshiba H-10, Atari 65XE, ZX81, Spectrum and Atari STFM and 2600. Also wanted games on 5.25" disc

MISCELLANEOUS SMALL ADVERTS - continued

for Amstrad PC1640. Lists to John, 78, Holtdale Avenue, LEEDS LS16 7SG REF:K

WANTED (for *any* 8-bit computers): any information on music score-editing programs that support guitar tablature. It is important that the application must also support conventional music symbols and typesetting rules (as per a music magazine). Phone 01469 574248 (office hours); 94 Margaret Street, IMMINGHAM, South Humberside DN40 1JY

FOR SALE: Atari XL/XE games for sale. Send SAE for list to: 29, Curlew, Wilnecote, TAMWORTH, Staffs B77 5PL or phone 01827 260729 after 7pm REF:T

WANTED: Any programs, information, user support clubs, etc for the Texas Instruments TI199. Please send to David Ledbury c/o 8BIT magazine. REF:Z

FOR SALE: CPC464, col/monitor, games £35; col/monitor for 464 £25; Dragon32, games £20; Spectrums £15-£30; Sharp MZ700 £10; Sharp MZ80B, discdrive, printer, £30; Einstein, software, col/monitor £30; BBC model B, discdrive, £35; Atari8000XL, discdrive, tape etc £40; Oric1 £20; Toshiba MSX £20. Contact Ed Harris at Berks PCW Users Club 01344 428938. REF:P

WANTED: A manual for Mannesmann Tally 290 printer. Please telephone first to 01253 (BLACKPOOL) 762092 REF:Q

ZX81's equipment for sale. ZX81s from £5, ram-packs from £2.50, leads and PSUs, printers and other equipment, all cheap. For list send ssae to Duncan Tizzard, *Folly Farm*, Cold Ashton, CHIPPENHAM, Wilts SN14 8JR PHONE: 01225 891014 REF:Q

FOR SALE. Star LC100 Colour Printer. Virtually as new; almost unused other than self-tests. 1 black ribbon + 2 4-colour ribbons, 1 metre Centronics cable, manual, original packing. £115. The intended use with existing inkjet not practicable. Purchaser to arrange the transport or shipping. N Bannister, 86, King Edward Drive, GRAYS, Essex RM16 4AQ. (01375 374732) REF:P

WANTED: Printer manuals for Epson FX-1000, Amstrad 3000, Dyneer Daisy DW16. Write (only) to Mr N Davies, Flat1, 39, Broad Street, Newtown, PowysSY16 2BQ REF:N

Atari 800XE/XL games for sale. Please send SSAE for list to Tim Asson, 29, Curlew, Wilnecote, TAMWORTH, Staffs B77 5PL or phone 01827 (Tamworth) 260729 after 7pm REF:J

LOADS OF GOODIES for your Spectrum, Apricot, Games console, PC: Tapes, Discs, Roms, Books, Magazines and Hardware. For list send A5 SSAE to: *Brympton Cottage*, Brunswick Road, WORTHING, Sussex BN11 3NQ. REF:Z

APPLE IIE with loads of spares incl. service manuals (massive), and cards, discs, motherboard, etc. Please write to: Mr N Woodbridge at 30, Hospital Street, NANTWICH, Cheshire CW5 5RP or phone 01270 628979 REF:T

Atari 800XL. Mint, 2 disc drives, Datacorder, loads of discs, plus spare keyboard. £40. Mr N Woodbridge, 30, Hospital Street, NANTWICH, Cheshire CW5 5RP. 01270 628979 REF:T

WANTED: Does anyone know of an Italian file for a spelling checker or Italian spellcheck program? Write to Mr AJ Howard, 65, Altyre Way, BECKENHAM, Kent BR3 3ED (and 8BIT) REF:J

CP/M SUPPORT: The Public Domain Software Library, *Winscombe House*, Beacon Road, CROWBOROUGH, Sussex. (Tel: 01892 663298) owns large volumes of CP/M software from all over the globe. Send A5 SAE for their CP/M catalogue. REF:Z

TRADING POST, Victoria Road, SHIFNAL, Shropshire, TF11 8AF (Tel: 01952 462135) have a variety of unused 8-bit computers available and even complete ones for spares from £10 and hardware and software for all 8-bits computers. REF:Z

OJ SOFTWARE, 273, Mossy Lea Road, Wrightington, Nr WIGAN, Lancs WN6 9RN for 8-bit software and 3" discs Tel: 01257 421915 REF:Z

continued.....

MISCELLANEOUS SMALL ADVERTS - continued

WANTED: Bootup software for an Apricot computer. The machine was made in 1983, has a start-up test ROM but needs a 3½" CP/M boot to bring it back to life. Any data will be useful. Contact Roger Henson, 88, Falkner Street, Gloucester, Glos GL1 4SJ. Tel: 01452 303390. REF:R

* * * *

LATE ENTRIES AND OMISSIONS:

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CPC Software; 500 titles SAE for price list to Alan, 18, West Street, Geddington, Northants NN14 1BD REF:K

* * * *

MELDREW No:1

Extracted From VAT notes No: 2 1995 - Para 6. Ostriches - liability. "From 1 April (yes really-BW) 1995 supplies of live ostriches and fertilised eggs are zero-rated. Previously, the live bird had been standard rated with supplies of ostrich meat being zero-rated as food of a kind for human consumption or as animal feeding stuffs.

"However ostrich feathers, ostrich skin leather and other parts of the bird not used for human consumption or animal feed remain standard-rated.

"The change acknowledges the fact that ostriches are now increasingly being farmed in the UK for food (?-BW), and follows consultation with the relevant bodies (Ha! Ha!), including the British Domesticated Ostrich Association and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

"VAT notice 701/37 *Live Animals* will be updated to reflect these changes."

MELDREW No:2

Extracted From VAT notes No: 3 1995 - Para 9. "Pre-germinated grass seed - liability. Given that pre-germinated grass seed is *not* seed for the propagation of animal food stuffs, it is not eligible for the zero-rate. Despite this view, we were prepared to allow zero-rating to continue for the time being as this practice was widespread in the industry.

"However, from 1 October 1995 the standard rate of VAT will apply to supplies of pre-germinated grass seed.

"By the way, VAT Publications leaflet 701/25/86 **Pet Food** has been added to the 'cancelled publications' list. Anyone up for a campaign to get it reintroduced?

* * * *

WACCO SPECIAL APPEAL:

You may be aware that the company **WACCO** has rescued the **Protext** word processor and **Arnor**'s other programs for the Amstrad PCW and CPC computers.

This has been very successful on the whole but a few compatibility problems have been reported to the **WACCO User Support Service** by some new users when trying to configure Protext to drive external printers attached to their PCWs. At present, it appears this only happens when some specific peripherals are attached but **WACCO** are gathering information to try to define, and hopefully resolve, the difficulties which customers of **Arnor** and **WACCO** have found.

As part of this process, **WACCO** wish to identify which combinations of add-ons work straight away and which may need a special configuration system.

If you have experience of connecting any external printer to a PCW and using **Protext** with it, Brian Watson of **WACCO** would be pleased to hear from you. Write to Brian Watson c/o **8BIT** magazine, and please note he does want to hear of the successful connections to PCWs with external or internal modifications in order to 'eliminate them from his enquiries.'

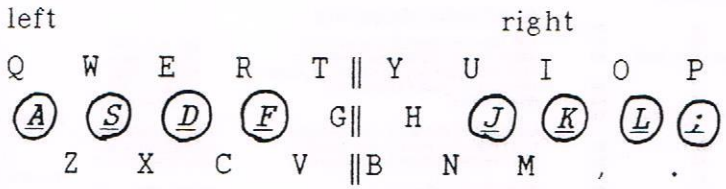
Thank you in anticipation - BW.

Extra: From the Lawyers' PCW Club - A Very Short Typing Course!

by Keith Simons.

If you are teaching yourself typing, then this one-sheet course is for you! Two-fingered typists are welcome! Our aims are to increase speed, appearance and comfort. You will be taught to press the correct keys with the correct fingers; to take your eyes off the keyboard and onto your work; to lay out your work correctly. Start by sitting in a correct posture: upright, on a chair of suitable height, legs in front of you, keyboard and screen at a comfortable distance.

Now look at the following chart:-



The keys on the left of the double line belong to your left hand, the others to the right hand. Rest your fingers on the following keys:-

Left hand fingers on: ASDF

Right hand fingers on: JKL;

...these are called the "home keys". Now, your fingers are only one key away from any letter key on the keyboard, an ideal position for fast typing. Let's get used to pressing these keys. Look at the chart above if needed, not at your fingers. Press the space bar with the thumb on your right hand. Press the finger which is resting on the appropriate key, and type this a few times:-

asdf jkl; ;lkj fdsa sad lad fad lass jad fdk slj dfj dks

When you feel competent, you are ready to stretch your index fingers. The "f" finger (index on left hand) stretches to the "g", the "j" finger (index right) stretches to "h". After pressing the "g" or "h" key, return your finger to the "f" or "j" key respectively. Type this a few times:

asdfg hjkl; glad had sad lad; ghlda lags slag ghgh slagh

Next, your fingers need to stretch up. From A to Q, from S to W, from D to E, from F to R and T on your left hand. From ; to P, from L to O, from K to I, from J to U and Y on your right. After you press each key, return your finger to its position on the ASDF JKL; row. Type:

typewriter qwer uiop qwert yuiop pray drew try property just ways

When you are ready, move to the bottom row. A to Z, S to X, D to C, F to V. On the right hand: ; to . (full stop), L to , (comma), K to M, and J to N and B. After pressing each key, return your finger to the ASDF JKL; keys. Type a few times this sentence containing every letter:-

the idle, lazy brown dog jumped over the clever, quick foxes.

To type a capital: if the letter belongs to the left hand, use your right little finger, else your left little finger. Move this finger to the shift key, hold it down, and press the letter key. Move the little finger back to A or ; as appropriate.--For-correct-spacing,-type-one-space-only-between-words,-one-after-a-comma,-two-after-a-full-stop.--Now, type a page of a novel, following all the above rules, and your course is complete!

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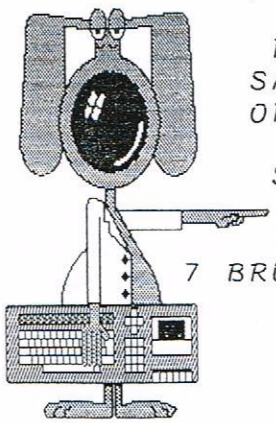

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COMPETITION RESULTS

In issue 8 I ran two competitions. The response was so ..remarkable.. that in issue 9 I continued it for another two months. Well, the entry flooded in and so we have a winner for both. I am pleased to say that not only is it the only entry, but it's a worthy winner too.

The first competition asked for song titles containing words to do with 8-bit computers. Here's the winning list from David Hall:

1) 'You are the APPLE of my eye' by ? (not sure about that one, you could have gone for 'APPLE Talk' from South Pacific as sung by Captain Sensible a few years ago)
2) 'This is the MODEM world' (actually modern in the original, but I like his style) by the Jam
3) 'He ain't heavy, he's my BROTHER' by ? (The Hollies did the best known version in Britain
4) 'ATMOSphere' - Russ Abbott, 5) 'Easy' by The COMMODOREs
6) 'When I'm (a) 64' - the Beatles
7) 'Oh TANDY' (actually Candy, but near enough!) - by John Travolta in Grease
8) 'VICtims' (clever) - Culture Club
9) 'It's a SIN(CLAIR)' - Pet Shop Boys
and finally, by Nirvana (and several dozen others)
10) 'Live at the BBC'.

Well done, David, the £5 is yours, but can I just add 'Waiting for the AMSTRAD to fall' by Queen?

By the way, I'm glad nobody sent in Liberace's theme song; 'I'll PC-ing you'

The second competition required all the entrants to prove a need for the Century/Pitman typing Tutor for the Commodore, as donated by Merline-Serve (plug, plug, see advert elsewhere).

The entry runs as follows:

"Dear Sur or Mad 'un,
Eye am righting two u 4 thur firs tyme sow eye howp eye downt mayk ay fuel ov meyeseluf. Lucking at thur magerseen eye fink its veri furrow, wel fought owt annd so downt giv ay thuck wot uvverz say cos itz an egg-shell-ant reed!
Ear iz ay bit abowt mee , eye wurk 4 thuh Inglish Diktionry Deepartmentt inn thuh lowcul collage wear eye mowstlee spel chek wots beeing prodyoused 4 n e erurz. Purse-on-ali eye fink aye doo ay gud jobb butt sum peepul fink eye right utta bore lux!
N e way eye hav too gow sow ears hopping ewe have ay grate crisp mouse az wel az ay hoppy nu beer .
Yurz Dizlexicoly,
Day vid Horl
S.P. Eyev spotid sum miztayks inn thuh magerzin witch eye coud corektid 4 ewe , sow iff ewe wont eyed lyk two spelchekk thuh magg 4 ewe eech izewe 2 mayk shore itz purfekt! KO ?"

Despite my spelling checker now being in intensive care I am sure you will agree David Hall deserves the prize for this competition ~~to~~ ~~2~~ ~~two~~ too; he's got me at it now! He also wins the almost historic, but-not-quite-the-last, issue 58 of **Commodore Format** (complete with covertape). Wow!

I've made the £5 cheque payable to 'Day vid Horl'; I hope that acceptable?

COMPETITION ISSUE 10

Being ever the glutton for waves of apathy, **8BIT** has a new competition for this issue.

What I want are *films* with titles which include the names of 8-bit computers or their related hardware (not software titles, that would be *much* too easy). Reasonable puns are also admissible. As it is so difficult I will not even reduce the number of options by giving you an example (apart from Enter the DRAGON) but if I get a decent entry with or without a few puns included, I will award the now-customary £5, or the option of 5 copies of **8BIT**, as a prize.

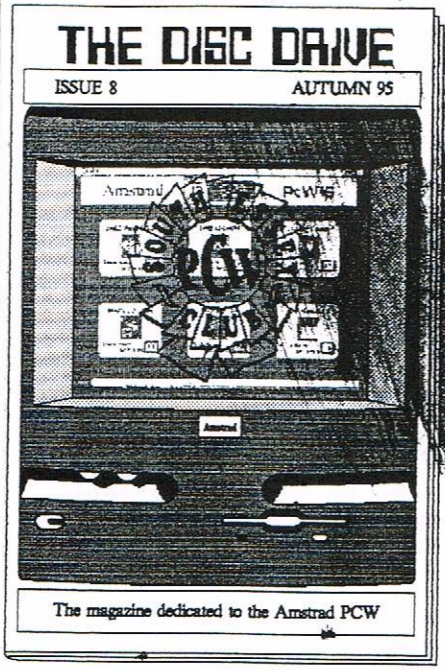
The closing date this time is 15th March (1996) to allow time for overseas entrants to take part in this most challenging conundrum.

* * * *

Have you any idea just how much trouble that last feature gave my spelling checker?

" Lets Communicate "

Subscribe to "The Disc Drive" and become part of a network of PCWers in contact not only with each other but with the market place. The magazine is another way of retaining that essential communication link that will assist in providing detailed information to the PCW user.



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ATTRACTIVE SHORTS & SENSATIONAL SCOOPS

What with the IEBA's activities and now the arrival of the **8 Bit Alliance**, it really puts the lie to the suggestion that there is now a shortage of support available for 8-bit computer users.

Initially, the expertise offered by the **Alliance** seems to be mainly for CPC, Spectrum and SAM users and there does not appear to be much offered for PCW or C64 users, but they are inviting help from others so you could contact them with that or to obtain further information.

As you will see in his advertisement this issue, James Waddington operates a program finder service for Spectrum users. For just £2 (if successful) he undertakes to find any program for you. He also has a lengthy list himself of Spectrum items for sale. Write to James at 11, Finsbury Drive, Wrose, BRADFORD, W Yorks BD2 1QA.

Issue 8 of the CPC Disczine **Amstrad User** is in preparation. It has recently been decided to make the publication Public Domain; this means there is now no objection to anyone wishing to copy it and pass it around. However, for an original copy, you still need to send a 3" disc plus (just) £1 to Brian Leahy as mentioned in their display advertisement elsewhere in **8BIT**. Perhaps a group of you could club together, save up your 20p pocket monies, make a 3" disc ... sorry, I think I'm going down with a touch of the Blue Peters.

Oops! It's apology time. In issue 8 of **8BIT** Leon Bebbington wrote an article on High Street Micros, 18, High Street, CREWE, Cheshire (sorry no post code available) appreciating their continuing commitment to 8-bit computing. As I transcribed his article, I made an error in the phone number. The number should be 01270 580964. Perhaps I could suggest you insert the missing digit? I hope it doesn't make your eyes water.

Did you know you can order from 20,000 options of sheet music by fax if you have a touch-tone phone and don't mind £1.50 per minute? As each page takes about a minute to print, that means £4.50 for a 3 page song. There is also a WWW site - Internet Music Shop. For more information phone: 0800 212891.

I'm late with this, but still..: PC Microfix have stocks of PCW parts and systems at hugely discounted prices, including cheap 3" discs, 8256 monitor boards for £39, and refurbished 8256 & 8512 printers for just £69! Phone 0181 840 5343 or 0181 579 7474 to confirm.

Following up last issue's special features on the new PCW16, 8BIT has some more hot scoops.

On Saturday 27th January 1996, your editor was closeted in smoke-filled rooms with some of the most talented brains on the 8-bit scene. Well, really we went to Richard Wildey's house for a cup of tea then on to the pub for Cajun Chicken and chips (get on with it - BW).

Right: the facts. The PCW16 and its unique operating system is *definitely* designed to allow the use of '3rd party' **software and it is in development now.**

I can confirm that **RoutePlanner**, Richard Fairhurst's excellent program reviewed in issue 6 of **8BIT** (back copies available - £2 incl postage), is on the way. The only disadvantage was the speed it took to calculate a route on a CPC; with the PCW16's Z80B clocked 4 times as fast, plus other techniques possible with the increased memory above the CPC's 128k, it will fly, I am assured! Incidentally, the chip used is fine at 16Mhz; it is a version designed to run at that speed.

Also on the way is **Protext** and our team of boffins reckon CP/M could appear too, opening the door for BASIC etc etc.

LocoThings? No comment yet, but if I seemed to have been by-passed by Amstrad, I'd have my people on the case as a matter of principle.

You may not be able to run your old PCW software, but you might get new (and better) versions of it. Let's hope Amstrad sell the %&*+#$% things. I understand they are now in the shopping catalogues, so that is a good sign, but I'd still like to see them in Dixons.

8 BIT ALLIANCE USER GROUP

c/o Leon Brown, 43 Gwydir Street, Toxteth, Liverpool L8 3TJ

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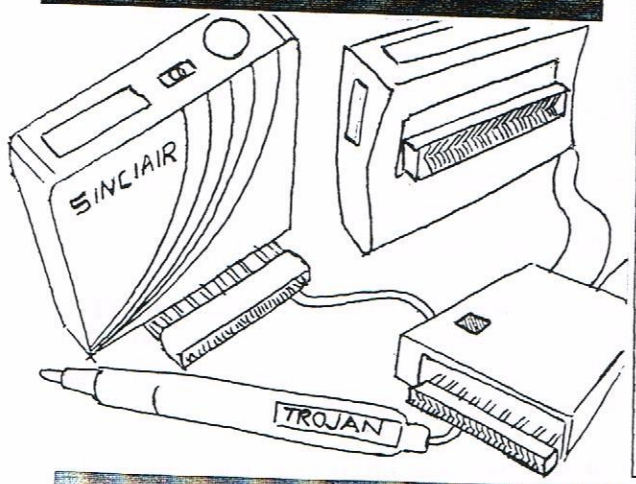

CLUB CREW

An introduction to the Club Crew!

LEON BROWN: The boss behind the new user group. He is also the editor of both CPC Format & Sinclair Computer User. He owns an Amstrad CPC 464 and a Spectrum grey +2. Leon uses both computers for programming on, and uses the CPC for important word processing.

His favourite sports are cricket, athletics and basketball. Leon is also currently involved in programming projects for the Spectrum & CPC. Leon will be giving advice on using BASIC for both Spectrum & CPC owners.

MARTYN SHERWOOD: Second in command! The owner of Prism PD & designer/editor/artist & publisher of PD POWER. Martyn owns every type of Spectrum, CPC6128, & Coupe Martyn will give advice on Protext, Art Studio & Stop Press, PCG DTP, WordMaster & using the Trojan Lightpen He will contribute to both CPC Format & Sincair Computer User. Prism PD can cater for +D/Disciple/DX1 & Microdrive formats.

RICHARD MCDONALD: Richard is cousin to Leon Brown, and is what you might call the "think tank". All the ideas for future programming projects are his responsibility.

TONY HALE: Tony is the main staff writer for both Alliance publications. He is also learning BASIC, and will be contributing to the software production at a later date.

JONATHAN DEVAAL: He owns a Spectrum +3, and will be looking after this side of the range. He is a writer for Sinclair Computer User & will be creating software.

YOU!: Yes! All of you out there have an integral part to play. We are always looking for more writers, programmers, & hardware specialists. Why not help to co-ordinate telephone help lines. Phone Martyn on 01788 817473 for the Spectrum & Coupe & 6128 side, or Leon on 01517 289084 for Spectrum & 464 side of the service, & tell us how you can help this user group.

8 BIT FACTSHEET

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THE C64 GRAPHIC ENVIRONMENT OPERATING SYSTEM (or GEOS for short) by Andrew Fisher

When Brian Watson asked me to write an article about GEOS for 8BIT, two important questions answered my mind:-

Q. How much money does it take to get a fully-featured graphical interface on an 8-bit computer, with integrated text and graphic software, cutting and pasting between documents, control over fonts and WYSIWYG printing?

A. Less than you think.

Q. What do all 8-bit computers need in this, the autumn of their life? (WHAT!)

A. Support from clubs and companies, and new software.

Well 8BIT, along with all the other clubs and small retailers, are trying to keep the eight bit machines alive. But surely there is very little NEW software in development that pushes our machines further than ever before? In the Commodore 64's case you'd be wrong - thanks to GEOS. Berkeley Softworks (later to be known as geoWorks) developed a point-and-click interface for the humble 64 that made it resemble an Apple Macintosh in function and usability - no more unwieldy OPEN commands to scratch a file, with GEOS you could simply lift it off the "desk top" and place it in the waste paper basket. And this was 4 YEARS before Bill Gates started talking about his *first* Windows system!

How does the system work in practice? The most important thing to consider is hardware. The minimum requirements are:-

A Commodore 64/128 and a TV/Monitor, a GEOS system disk, a 1541 or compatible disk drive, and an Input Device - joystick, mouse, lightpen, Koala Pad, trackball etc., plus a few blank disks.

On top of this, you will need a printer to print out your creations - GEOS uses specially written printer drivers (and more are written every week) to cope with changes in technology - from the simple Commodore dot-matrix to a Postscript Laser Printer. Secondhand bargains are easy to find, ribbons sometimes slightly harder, so check that there is at least one spare ribbon with any printer you buy. (Handy hint - the Commodore MPS1230 printer can take Olivetti DM100 printer ribbons, which are easier to find.)

As you become accustomed to the system, it is *very* easy to upgrade your hardware and software. New applications all share the same basic look and feel, with pull-down menus and icons, and extra hardware will make your life easier. As an example, a second disk drive (be it 5¼", 3½" or even a hard drive) will reduce disk swapping and time, whereas the ultimate system would include extra RAM. This can be in the form of a Commodore RAM Expansion Unit (in sizes up to 2Mb of memory), the special GeoRam 512K unit designed specially for GEOS, or even a RAMLink with up to 16Mb of battery-backed memory and the ability to boot GEOS in a few seconds when you switch on.

Your first purchase should be the GEOS v2.0 (or GEOS 128 v2.0) system disk. This comes complete with geoWrite v2.1 (a WYSIWYG word-processor), geoPaint 2.0 (a page-orientated paint program), desk accessories and add-on utilities plus a big manual. Don't be frightened - it's not that difficult to understand.

The first step is to load up GEOS and install the applications. This gives them a unique serial number and prevents illegal copying. (There are ways around this for legitimate users who buy software installed on another system). Once you have done that, the tutorial will take you through the process of setting up a work disk,

getting used to moving files on the deskTop screen and loading up an application.

All GEOS applications have the same look and feel, and the one you will use the most is the deskTop. (Note that the deskTop is regarded as an application, not a permanent part of the system. Alternative programs like Gateway from Creative Micro Designs do the same job in a different way, or there is the exciting geoShell that provides a Command Line Interface (CLI) similar to MS-DOS or CP/M for those who like typing.) There will be pull-down menus, icons to click and double-click, dialogue boxes that require input or allow you to select a file and a pointer. You can manipulate the pointer with a mouse, joystick, trackball, lightpen, Koala Pad etc. One thing to get used to is that the major applications are "page-orientated" and based on a standard A4 page - so a geoPaint file can be up to 8½" by 11".

One great asset is the software bundled with the GEOS system - geoPaint and geoWrite. The latest version of geoWrite has all the options (search and replace, headers and footers, automatic time, date and page stamping) you would expect in a WP. But then it adds full control over margins, typestyles and spacing in a graphical way. Want to make the page narrower? Click on the on-screen ruler and move the M (for margin) mark. Keyboard shortcuts and a separate spelling checker (with US dictionary and optional personal dictionaries) make it better than any other word processor on the C64 due to its unique ability - pasting graphics in among the text.

Of course, the place to draw your graphics is geoPaint. Rather than trying to cope with the whole page at once, your view is limited to a drawing window with an impressive set of 20+ tools, with extra options like changing brush shape and colour just a double-click away. And it is very straightforward to design a graphic, cut it out of the geoPaint document and paste it into a geoWrite document - or any other GEOS-produced file for that matter.

This portability of data is what makes GEOS unique on the 64. You might take an address from the database (geoFile), financial details from the spreadsheet (geoCalc), make the data into a chart with geoChart (or a pie chart, graph, line graph, scatter plot etc), then with text from a geoWrite file and a graphic converted from a different art program into geoPaint format, assemble the whole lot in the DTP program geoPublish. Once you know how to point, click, type and move icons you will be able to do anything in GEOS.

PC owners may have Windows 95 to co-ordinate all their activities - Commodore 64 and 128 owners should turn to GEOS to do the same for them. As an example of the ongoing development, it is now possible to get a program to send, print and receive faxes in GEOS with a suitable modem. Or how about the multitude of programs that allow you to transfer graphics from other art programs on the 64 into geoPaint - and even from PC and Macintosh format? Graphic morphing, like Terminator 2? Get geoMorph. Add in thousands of home-made and commercial fonts, all the graphics for any situation you will ever need (plus the ability to transfer graphics from other programs) and there is enough support for GEOS to last into the next century.

There are two important points of contact in the UK, and more overseas. (Australia, New Zealand and the USA are leading the way when it comes to GEOS). Electric Boys Entertainment Software are the official UK distributors of GEOS products, under licence from Creative Micro Designs in the States. For on-going technical support and follow-on programs, EBES are the only choice. Send £1 (or International Reply Coupon) and an SAE for their catalogue listing GEOS software and further details as well as the latest hardware and software from around the world to:- Electric Boys (8-Bit), 2A, Woolaston Road, Harringay, London, N4 1SE. Credit card orders are now accepted, so if you want to get hold of GEOS asap, telephone or fax on 0181 348 4916 with credit card details. GEOS v2.0 for the 64 costs £39 while the GEOS 128 v2.0 costs £45 and features 80 column support along with much more.

THIS ARTICLE WILL BE CONTINUED IN ISSUE 11 OF 8BIT

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THE REAL WORLD: The pressures on my time of life, business and deadlines mean individual replies to letters cannot be guaranteed. I'm not (I hope) rude, I'm just a very busy person.

COMING SOON TO 8BIT: Many contributions from kind readers who have not yet seen their work in print. Now I've gone to 5 A3 pages there should soon be room.

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